

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Claims 8, 12-15, 24 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,687,235 (Perlman et al.). Applicants respectfully submit that the Perlman reference is silent as to numerous claim limitations as noted below. Perlman is directed to a certificate revocation performance optimization scheme that facilitates revoking a certificates using certificate revocation lists (CRLs) by, for example, a revocation service that is stated with respect to FIGs. 3a and 3b, a server node may provide a revocation service request regarding the revocation status of a particular certificate. The revocation service may then generate a reply that includes a revocation status of a particular certificate, if indicated in the request. (See for example, column 7, lines 19-55). The RS determines whether an optimal CRL should contain all, part or none of the current CRL revoked certificate serial numbers. As such, if a server node does not presently retain a sufficiently current CRL or contains no CRL at all, the server node sends the serial number of this certificate at issue to the RS and the RS then determines its revocation status and sends that status back to the requesting server node.

In contrast, Applicants claim, among other things, monitoring of certificates of at least one subscriber subject that is identified by update subscription information. In addition, claim 8 requires for example, that when a change occurs to the certificate, providing an indication of the change to the user in response to the monitoring of the certificate. Applicants are unable to find any reference to the monitoring or notifying of an indication of a change of the monitored certificate based on update subscription information as claimed. The office action appears to allege that the monitoring step begins after a server node requests a CRL entry, however, no monitoring is necessary in Perlman since the server node sends the request after it determines

that it does not have a CRL or the requisite CRL information. As noted in Applicants' specification, for example, page 10 and elsewhere, one example of monitoring certificates of a subscriber subject is that a server may monitor certificate information by pulling the certificates relating to a subscriber from a CA. When the CA makes a change to the public key of the subscriber subject of interest, the server pulls the information from the certification authority. Perlman does not describe any type of monitoring of the certificate of a subscriber subject that is identified by update subscription information. As such, claims 8, 13-15, 24 and 29-30 are allowable.

As to claims 12 and 28, these claims are also allowable at least for the reasons given above.

Claims 11 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The office action admits that Perlman does not teach an encoded message with identifying the change to the public key certificate of a subscriber subject. The office action takes official notice that it is well known to encrypt information related to security. However, Applicants also note that the claim requires that the message include specific information namely, identifying the change in the public key certificate. Perlman teaches a different system that does not identify any change to the public key certificate but instead simply sends a certificate revocation list or revocation indication and there would be no need to encode such a message. As such, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and that an early Notice of Allowance be issued in this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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